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THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

BOSTON, DECEMBER, 1896.

War, in all its aspects, has little to recommend it, and almost everything to condemn it. Even the brilliant qualities of courage and self-sacrifice, which it often calls forth, are more than counterbalanced by the cruelty, license and corruption which are its inseparable concomitants. The history of every nation, after a great war, is a history of demoralization. The moral sense appears to be weakened by the spectacle of brute force contending with brute force; the sensibilities are blunted by indifference to suffering and familiarity with death; the morals of camps are proverbially loose; the custom of destruction is apt to beget the love of it; and that regard for the rights and feelings of others, which is the chief glory of civilization, is lessened, if not lost, in the struggle for life and mastery in fight. Contention does undoubtedly sharpen the intellect, but there may be other kinds of contention than that of mere force. Indeed, that contention which aims to overcome obstacles in nature, to outstrip in manly arts, to look deepest into the mysteries of the world, material and spiritual; contention in letters and arts, in poetry, philosophy and history, in agriculture and navigation, in the refinements of life, the cultivation of taste and the elevation of morals; that is the contention which really purifies and exalts.

DAVID DUDLEY FIELD.

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ARTICLE I. This Society shall be designated the "AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY."

ART. II. This Society, being founded on the principle that all war is contrary to the spirit of the gospel, shall have for its object to illustrate the inconsistency of war with Christianity, to show its baleful influence on all the great interests of mankind, and to devise means for insuring universal and permanent peace.

ART. III. Persons of every Christian denomination desirous of promoting peace on earth, and good-will towards men, may become members of this Society.

ART. IV. Every annual subscriber of two dollars shall be a member of this Society.

ART. V. The payment of twenty dollars at one time shall constitute any person a Life-member.

ART. VI. The chairman of each corresponding committee, the officers and delegates of every auxiliary contributing to the funds of this Society, and every minister of the gospel who preaches once a year on the subject of peace, and takes up a collection in

behalf of the cause, shall be entitled to the privileges of regular members.

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ART. IX. The Society shall hold an annual meeting at such time and place as the Board of Directors may appoint, to receive their own and the Treasurer's report, to choose officers, and transact such other business as may come before them.

ART. X. The object of this Society shall never be changed; but the constitution may in other respects be altered, on recommendation of the Executive Committee, or of any ten members of the Society, by a vote of three-fourths of the members present at any regular meeting.

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No. 11

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THE VENEZUELA ARBITRATION.

It is just a year ago the 17th of this month that President Cleveland's Venezuela message set all Anglo-Saxon-dom in commotion. Everybody is delighted that the last breezes of the commotion have disappeared with the announcement in London and Washington on the 9th and 10th of November that a basis of settlement of the trouble has been reached. This announcement was first made by Lord Salisbury at the Lord Mayor's banquet in London on Nov. 9. The next day the State Department at Washington confirmed the statement, and gave to the press two letters which were withheld at the time of the publication of the diplomatic correspondence in July last.

From these letters it appears that the trouble to be removed was Lord Salisbury's objection to turning over the question of the "settled districts" in the disputed region to unrestricted arbitration, as Mr. Olney had insisted

should be done. In his letter dated July 3, 1896, he explained what he had not made entirely clear in his former dispatches, that he did not mean that these "settled districts" should fall to Great Britain simply because they were excluded from the arbitration, but that they should be treated as a separate subject and disposed of by further negotiation. "The claim of Venezuela is so far reaching," he says, "that it brings into question interests and rights which can not properly be disposed of by an unrestricted arbitration. It extends as far as the Essequibo; it covers two-thirds of the colony of British Guiana; it impeaches titles which have been unquestioned for many generations. These districts must be treated separately, and until further inquiry has thrown more light upon the matter it is only by reserving the settled districts generally that this can be done."

In Mr. Olney's reply, dated July 13, after disposing of minor points in Salisbury's dispatch, he says: "That Venezuela claims territory extending to the Essequibo, or covering two-thirds of the colony of British Guiana, cannot be regarded as being of itself an insuperable obstacle to unrestricted arbitration. But the objection that the Venezuelan claim 'impeaches titles which have been unquestioned for many generations' is undoubtedly of the most weighty character. The inquiry I desire to put, therefore, is this: 'Can it be assumed that Her Majesty's government would submit to unrestricted arbitration the whole of the territory in dispute, provided it be a rule of the arbitration, embodied in the arbitral agreement, that territory which has been in the exclusive, notorious and actual use and occupation of either party for even two generations, or say for sixty years, shall be held by the arbitrators to be the territory of such party? In other words, will Her Majesty's government assent to unrestricted arbitration of all the territory in controversy with the period for the acquisition of title by prescription fixed by agreement of the parties in advance at sixty years?'"

This suggestion of Mr. Olney's gave the clue for the satisfactory basis which has been agreed upon for submitting the whole question to arbitration. Lord Salisbury at once accepted the method proposed as promising sufficient protection to actual British settlers in their